

Applicant : Miller et al.
Appl. No. : 10/595602
Examiner : Brian T Gedeon
Docket No. : 13634.4009

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.—2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A wrap for securing directly about a blood vessel within a patient's body by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre to provide strain relief from wrapped to unwrapped blood vessel.

4. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, in combination with a blood vessel deformor, said wrap being adapted to sandwich the deformor between the vessel and the wrap.

5. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 4, wherein the vessel deformor is part of an implantable counter-pulsation heart assist device.

6. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 5, wherein the vessel deformor is an inflatable balloon or chamber.

7. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 6, wherein the wrap is adapted to secure the inflatable balloon or chamber against an aorta.

8. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 7, wherein the wrap is adapted to secure the inflatable balloon or chamber against an ascending aorta.

9. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is of woven or knitted construction, or a combination of those constructions.

10. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 9, wherein the wrap is made of polyester.

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11. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap has slits along some of its sides.

12. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 11, wherein the wrap has a series of spaced apart slits that are normal to the direction of the sides.

13. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap has warp fibres at, near, or along its sides that are more elastic than the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre.

14. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 13, wherein the warp fibres, near or along its sides are crimped and the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre are un-crimped or less crimped.

15. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap includes a strip of substantially centrally placed material, the strip having a tensile strength greater than that of the rest of the wrap.

16. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 15, wherein the two sides of the wrap are similar, or differing, elasticity or stretchability to each other.

17. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is made from woven fabric cut on the bias and is more elastic at or near its sides.

18. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is thinner at, near, or along its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre.

19. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is about six times longer than it is wide.

20. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap has a slimmed region at or near its longitudinal midpoint.

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21. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 20, wherein the wrap includes one or more longitudinal slits near its slimmed region to allow the wrap to conform radially more closely with the inner curve of the aorta.

22. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is shaped to allow good conformance with the curved aorta.

23. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap also includes an opening for a fluid tube.

24. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap is coated with a material to reduce its surface area and to limit tissue ingrowth.

25. (original) The wrap as claimed in claim 24, wherein the wrap is coated on one or both sides with either silicone or polyurethane or a co-polymer of both silicone and polyurethane.

26. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 3, wherein the wrap has an open weave or mesh structure.

27. (Previously Presented) The wrap of claim 10, wherein said polyester is polyethylene terephthalate.

28. (Previously Presented) The wrap of claim 4, in combination with an implantable counter-pulsation heart assist device comprising a vessel deformer.

29. (Previously Presented) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides, wherein the wrap is more elastic or stretchable at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, to provide strain relief from wrapped to unwrapped aorta, wherein the wrap has slits along a portion of its sides.

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30. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 29, wherein the wrap has a series of spaced apart slits that are normal to the direction of the sides.

31. (Previously Presented) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides, wherein the wrap is more elastic or stretchable at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, to provide strain relief from wrapped to unwrapped aorta, wherein the wrap has warp fibres at, near, or along its sides that are more elastic than the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre.

32. (Previously Presented) The wrap as claimed in claim 31, wherein the warp fibres, near or along its sides are crimped and the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre are un-crimped or less crimped.

33. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, wherein the wrap has slits along some of its sides.

34. (New) The wrap as claimed in claim 33, wherein the wrap has a series of spaced apart slits that are normal to the direction of the sides.

35. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, wherein the wrap has warp fibres at, near, or along its sides that are more elastic than the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre.

36. (New) The wrap as claimed in claim 35, wherein the warp fibres, near or along its sides are crimped and the warp fibres at, near, or along its centre are un-crimped or less crimped.

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37. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, wherein the wrap includes a strip of substantially centrally placed material, the strip having a tensile strength greater than that of the rest of the wrap, wherein the two sides of the wrap are similar, or differing, elasticity or stretchability to each other.

38. (New) A wrap for securing about a blood vessel by encasing a section of the vessel, the wrap being of thin flexible construction having two ends and two sides and being adapted to apply, in use, less compressive force at, near, or along at least a portion of its sides compared to at, near, or along its centre, wherein the wrap has a slimmed region at or near its longitudinal midpoint and wherein the wrap includes one or more longitudinal slits near its slimmed region to allow the wrap to conform radially more closely with the inner curve of the aorta.